

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 8.45pm  
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

**Committee Present:** Chairman Cllr R Patient, Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs P Young, Cllr K Binding, Cllr Mrs L Haskew, Cllr L Sampson, Cllr Mrs L Shaw, Cllr D Weir and Cllr Mrs M Weir

**Also Present:** Cllr R Gardner and Mrs D Abrams

*Standing Order 6n. Resolution `that in view of the new Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations made on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014 SO 6n (Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior written consent) be suspended`.*

**78. Presentation from Woodlands Risk Management Consultant re. Health & Safety Proposal:**

Cllr Patient welcomed Diana Abrams. Diana introduced herself and declared that she was married to the Groundsman. She gave a detailed resumé of her professional experience and an in depth view of the purpose of her visit to provide training and the tools for staff to implement Council's own health & safety.

A Question and Answer session commenced (noted separately), at the end of which, Cllr Patient thanked Diana for her detailed and informative presentation and she left the chamber.

**79. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:**

Cllr Mrs A Heath (Work), Cllr V Leach and Cllr J Tutton (Another Appointment). Members accepted the apologies tendered.

**80. Declarations of any:**

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;
- b) Other Pecuniary Interest; or
- c) Non-Pecuniary Interest

**on any matter on the agenda for 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015:** None were declared.

**81. Public Forum:** None Present.

**82. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved and Members agreed to the destruction of the meeting notes.

**83. Action Update List – January 2015:**

The Action list was reviewed item by item and updates were given.

83.1 The Clerk was asked to double check whether all 3 dropped kerb schemes were approved and report back.

83.2 Cllr Mrs Young reported from the Hawkwell Village Hall meeting that all agents using the hall were getting horizontal banners that would not overhang the Office sign; and through the Bookings Manager the Zumba Class would

be asked not to put up their sign (which was vertical) during office hours. Cllr Mrs Shaw pointed out that any damage to the office sign would be chargeable. The Clerk was asked to email the Bookings Manager.

83.3 It was agreed that Council could not take the zebra crossing request forward without the support of the Ward District Councillors.

Members noted the Action List Update and **agreed** to close completed items.

**84. Financial Report – December 2014:**

The Clerk went through the report and with no questions, Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

**85. Health & Safety Consultancy - Comparison:**

Cllr Patient said that Diana Abrams had provided a very good presentation; he detailed what she had done for Council in the past and opened the floor for debate. Cllr Weir expressed strong opinion about his lack of knowledge of a vacancy for the post of Health & Safety expert and the purpose for the presentation and quotes was explained by Cllr Patient.

There was a lengthy debate with many views given and both quotes and reports were compared thoroughly.

**Cllr Sampson moved for an invitation to Nick Bush, Peninsula Business Services Ltd to present at the next meeting and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Weir. The motion was carried** and the Clerk reported for the record that she had met with Nick Bush previously and received a Peninsula Business Services brochure.

**86. Xmas Parcels Working Group – verbal report:**

Cllr Patient placed on record sincere thanks to Cllr Mrs Shaw and her husband, Phil Shaw for the enormous amount of work they had done and cost savings made. Cllr Mrs Shaw thanked Councillors and helpers and reported she had made Christmas cards and purchased bags at a cheaper price (£96) on Boxing Day for 2015. Cllr Mrs Shaw was happy to send out letters again to seek donations for 2015 and listed donations received:-

- Bags of items given by Clever Clogs Pre-school (£7.13 was spent to make up enough for all parcels)
- £215 raised via the Waitrose Community Matters Scheme and a Case of Ham (worth £12)
- £20 Morrisons voucher
- £10 Asda voucher

Cllr Mrs Shaw asked Members to submit throughout the year any names of people over 60 living on their own and if there was a confidentiality issue, to pass the information to the Clerk.

**87. Invitation from Ashingdon Parish Council to Share Speed Gun (£298.33) emails attached:**

Cllr Mrs Young pointed out that Cllr Mrs J McPherson had provided information that a speed gun would be available if volunteers could be brought together to conduct a speed watch group. Members expressed a number of concerns and questioned responsibility for issuing speeding tickets. Cllr Mrs Young clarified that speed watch monitored the speed at which vehicles were travelling only and this was one of the

priority items highlighted from the Hawkwell Parish Plan to take forward; speeding and issuing tickets was a matter for the Police. Cllr Mrs Young recommended acting as an agency collecting names between Hawkwell and Ashingdon for District Cllr Mrs McPherson **and moved for an article in the Newsletter advertising access to speed watch was available with a call for volunteers.** Cllr Sampson seconded the motion and after a show of hands the motion was **carried.**

**88. Email from Matthew Valentine ECC re. LHP Recommendations for 2015/16 financial year:**

Cllr Mrs Young recommended nominating any proposals that had been submitted but not yet approved to be put forward again and this was **agreed.**

**Flood Problems:** Cllr Mrs Shaw put forward the flooding on the blind bend by St. Mary's Church and it was thought this was as a result of the drains needing to be cleared out and this was **agreed.**

Cllr Mrs Weir and Mrs Young nominated the entrance to Gusted Hall Lane and part of Main Road flooding with water running off the field by Mount Bovers with overflowing ditches. The Clerk advised that Highways were scheduled to work on Gusted Hall Lane for 9 days. It was **agreed to monitor the flooding at Gusted Hall and nominate Main Road** flooding from the fields.

**Pedestrian Crossing – email from resident:** The request was discussed in detail with mixed views and ideas expressed. **It was resolved that a traffic survey would be requested and an assessment would be made seeking the views of local people and Ward District Cllr Mrs H Glynn.**

**89. Set Date for Xmas Lights & Summer Fayre Working Group:**

A Xmas Lights Meeting was **agreed** to follow Full Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and Cllr Mrs Shaw offered apologies which were noted. Cllr Mrs Weir recommended that it might be more appropriate to wait until after May to set a Summer Fayre meeting, this was debated but it was agreed to arrange a meeting at a later date.

**90. Minutes of Parish Transport Meeting (referred from Full Council):**

The Clerk explained the minutes were for information and Sec 106 monies had been clarified. Cllr Mrs Weir was unsure as to the future of these meetings - Noted.

**91. Summary of Decisions:**

- The Clerk to check if 3 dropped kerb schemes approved and report back.
- The Clerk to email Hall Bookings Manager re. potential Sign damage.
- Agreed not to take zebra crossing request (near St. Mary's Church) forward.
- Agreed to invite Nick Bush to present at the next meeting.
- Names for Christmas Parcels to be passed onto Cllr Mrs Shaw/the Clerk.
- Promote local Speed Watch Group and invite volunteers via Newsletter article.
- Schemes nominated above to be put forward to LHP.
- Agreed to request traffic survey, views of local people and Ward District Cllr Mrs H Glynn re. zebra crossing request in Rectory Road.
- Xmas Lights WG to follow Full Council - 2<sup>nd</sup> February/Summer Fayre WG to be arranged at a later date.

The meeting was closed at 10pm.

Chairman